

Please do not classify the LECs as non-dominant. It would be a travesty to claim they are not. While there is a clear alternative telephone provider in my area, (AT&T) and there are several CLECs providing internet services, none of these companies are on a solid financial footing. There are a number of potentially promising alternatives such as cellular wireless services and VOIP which are becoming increasingly viable but they are far from solid competition.

True competition for the LECs means they must have competitors which can provide the level of reliability and availability which we have come to expect from the LECs. To do so requires a level of organizational maturity which takes years to develop. While some of the companies which grew during the internet bubble were based on un-economic principles, others are like toddlers, learning to walk, but falling down in the process.

How can we expect these companies to learn to run if we pull the rug out from underneath them while they are learning to walk?

I have benefited greatly from the new services which have developed. I have come to rely on them for my work and for my entertainment. To lose them, or have to change them will hurt me, and others like me, all across this country. Please, do not hurt those who are blazing new trails to the future by de-regulating the LECs.